



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 March 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Boston Globe reports that in response to credit– and debit–card theft from retailers, American financial institutions are starting to offer "smart cards" with microprocessor chips that store encrypted customer information and require a personal identification number, or PIN. (See item [10](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security announced on Thursday, March 1, its proposal to establish minimum standards for state–issued driver's licenses and identification cards, in compliance with the REAL ID Act of 2005, to enhance the security and integrity of driver's licenses. (See item [16](#))
- The Associated Press reports heavy, wet snow and blizzard conditions hit the Plains and Midwest on Thursday, March 1, shutting down hundreds of miles of interstate highways, closing schools, and canceling flights. (See item [39](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 01, InformationWeek* — PG&E says patching meters for an early daylight–saving time will cost \$38 million. The main provider of energy to central and northern California says

its meters won't work properly on March 11 due to this year's early rollover to daylight—saving time and that reprogramming them would cost \$38 million. To work around the problem, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) asked for, and received, permission from California's Public Utilities Commission to change the way it bills its customers to compensate for the fact that its meters won't automatically spring ahead one hour on March 11, according to state records. PG&E bills some of its customers under a so-called time-of-use program, under which customers pay different rates for electricity depending on the time of day. To adjust for early daylight—saving without having to reprogram its meters, the company has received permission to simply inform customers that rate schedules will begin and end one hour earlier than published for the period between March 11 and the first Sunday in April, when daylight—saving would have normally have gone into effect.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=197700487>

2. *February 28, Reuters* — **BP says aiming to restart Alaska field next week.** Oil major BP Plc said Wednesday, February 28, it may take until the end of next week to replace corroded piping at its Northstar oil field in Alaska, which has been shut since February 17. BP shut the 47,000 barrels per day (bpd) field after a worker noticed a small leak in some piping in the field's gas plant. Subsequent inspections turned up some corrosion at the facility, which only began pumping oil in 2001. "We have completed our inspections and depending on things like the weather the field will be restarted some time next week," said BP Alaska spokesperson Daren Beaudou.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN28337517200703_01

3. *February 28, Department of Energy* — **DOE selects six cellulosic ethanol plants for up to \$385 million in federal funding.** Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman announced that DOE will invest up to \$385 million for six biorefinery projects over the next four years. When fully operational, the biorefineries are expected to produce more than 130 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol per year. "These biorefineries will play a critical role in helping to bring cellulosic ethanol to market, and teaching us how we can produce it in a more cost effective manner," Secretary Bodman said. Combined with the industry cost share, more than \$1.2 billion will be invested in six biorefineries across the country. Cellulosic ethanol is an alternative fuel made from a wide variety of non-food plant materials (or feedstocks), including agricultural wastes such as corn stover and cereal straws, industrial plant waste like saw dust and paper pulp, and energy crops grown specifically for fuel production like switchgrass.

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/4827.htm>

4. *January 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-42: Energy Efficiency: Long-standing Problems with DOE's Program for Setting Efficiency Standards Continue to Result in Forgone Energy Savings (Report).** The Department of Energy (DOE) sets energy efficiency standards through the rulemaking process for certain consumer product categories, such as kitchen ranges, and industrial equipment, such as distribution transformers. Congress reported in 2005 that DOE was late in setting standards and required DOE to report every six months on the status of the backlog. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) the extent to which DOE has met its obligations to issue rules on minimum energy efficiency standards for consumer products and industrial equipment and (2) whether DOE's plan for clearing the backlog will be effective or can be improved. GAO recommends that DOE adopt elements of effective project management in its standards rulemaking, such as using a

more transparent process and allocating adequate resources within its appropriation. In commenting on this report, DOE did not respond to the recommendations but said it was incorrect to single out any official or office for the delays and that the report did not reflect many of its standards-setting activities since EPOA 2005. GAO reported several causes of delays; activities since EPOA 2005 were outside this report's scope.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0742high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-42>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *February 28, Lincoln County News (ME)* — **Evacuation ordered after propane leak.** A propane leak in Damariscotta, ME, resulted in the evacuations of the town's municipal offices and a nearby building Wednesday, February 28. The town office, the police dept. and medical offices in the nearby building were evacuated after someone reported a strong smell of propane in the area, according to emergency responders at the scene. An external pipe carrying propane at the building next to the town office was determined to be the source of the leak. All of the buildings involved were later cleared and re-opened.

Source: <http://www.mainelincolncountynews.com/index.cfm?ID=23761>

6. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Chemical spills from barge in Ohio River.** Thousands of gallons of a toxic chemical spilled into the Ohio River between Illinois and Kentucky after a barge struck a lock wall, environmental officials said Wednesday, February 28. The spill late Tuesday was estimated to be up to 8,000 gallons of a petroleum-based substance called cumene. The spill did not appear to pose a serious threat to residents or marine life, and there were no evacuations. Kirby Inland Marine, the Houston-based owner, said the barge hit the guide wall of a lock that helps manage water flow. Traffic on the Interstate 24 Ohio River Bridge was restricted to one lane to enable officials to set up an air monitoring station on the bridge. It was reopened Wednesday afternoon. As a precaution, local authorities also requested that nearby Fort Massac State Park be closed.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/1-02282007-1306354.ht ml>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *March 01, Washington Post* — **Costs ballooning for new combat ship.** A Navy program to build a new combat ship to patrol coastal waters will face another cost increase, government officials acknowledged Wednesday, February 28, a hit to the service's attempt to keep expenses under control so it can afford a larger fleet. The increase comes as Congress is becoming increasingly critical of rising costs in weapons programs and has questioned the Navy's handling of the combat-ship contract. The size of the increase is still unclear.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/28/AR2007022802143.html>

8. *March 01, U.S. Air Force* — **Air Force officials release 2007 posture statement.** Air Force officials released their annual posture statement which articulates the major elements required for the Air Force to fulfill its mission and its priorities over the course of the next year and into the future. The secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff testified before the House Armed Services Committee Wednesday, February 28, delivering the Fiscal 2008 National Defense Budget Request where the 2007 Posture Statement was released. The posture statement outlines the key priorities for the Air Force this year: to fight and win the war on terrorism; to develop and care for Airmen and their families; and to recapitalize and modernize aging aircraft, spacecraft and equipment.
Posture Statement: http://www.posturestatement.hq.af.mil/assets/2007_AirForce_Posture_Statement.pdf
Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123042822>

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 01, InformationWeek* — **Hacker attack forces Texas A&M to change 96,000 passwords.** Texas A&M University is mandating that 96,000 students, faculty, and staff change their passwords after a hacker attempted a network break-in. The university, in College Station, TX, issued an advisory on Wednesday, February 28, alerting the campus that a hacker tried to break into electronic files containing encrypted passwords to some university accounts. The attack did not affect financial, payroll, or student administrative systems, the school said. However, to mitigate the risk, university officials are issuing a mandate that all of the users of the school's computer system change their NetID passwords. NetID is a login credential used in many school systems.
Additional information: <http://cis.tamu.edu/netid/>
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/software/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=3DLF5SVF02NGSQSNDLPSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=19770042_0
10. *March 01, Boston Globe* — **Firms prodded to try smarter credit cards.** Faced with increasing threats of theft of consumer data, credit-card companies are rolling out higher security plastic. European and Asian banks in recent years have spent billions of dollars to make the switch to credit and debit cards containing a tiny microprocessor chip that stores encrypted customer information and requires a personal identification number, or PIN. American financial institutions also are starting to offer similar so-called smart cards that promise to better protect consumer data following credit- and debit-card theft from retailers. Most American banks and card networks use cards with magnetic stripes which are coded with information, such as customer names and account numbers, and allow merchants to quickly authorize a transaction over phone lines with a single swipe of a card through a computer. But the data on the magnetic stripes is relatively easy for thieves to copy. The chips, like those on cards in Europe, store encrypted data to make it harder for thieves to use if the card is lost or stolen.
Source: http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2007/03/01/firms_prodded_to_try_smarter_credit_cards/

11.

February 28, Government Accountability Office — **GAO-07-532T: Information Security: Veterans Affairs Needs to Address Long-Standing Weaknesses (Testimony).** Security breaches at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other public and private organizations have highlighted the importance of well-designed and implemented information security programs. GAO was asked to testify on its past work on VA's information security program, as well as ongoing reviews that it is conducting at VA. In developing its testimony, GAO drew on over 15 of its previous reports and testimonies, as well as reports by the department's inspector general (IG). To ensure that security issues are adequately addressed, GAO has previously made over 150 recommendations to VA on implementing effective controls and developing a robust information security program.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07532t.pdf>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *March 01, KUAM (Guam)* — **U.S. Coast Guard oversees safe transit seminar.** The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam hosted a multi-agency strike force operation and professional exchange this week. In conjunction with the Guam Police Department, the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, and border protection agencies, the Coast Guard organized this unannounced surge operation in order to ensure the safe transportation of shipping containers on Guam. The forum also sought to ensure that commerce is conducted in manner that does not put the public at risk. These operations also increase cooperation between government and commercial organizations.

Source: <http://www.kuam.com/news/21139.aspx>

13. *March 01, Jersey Journal (NJ)* — **New train cars are on the way for PATH.** The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is investing big dollars to replace its fleet of Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH) trains. The oldest fleet in the country, PATH cars have been in existence for more than 30 years. Marc LaVorgna, a spokesperson for the Port Authority, which runs the system, said the cars are an average of 33 years old. Between next year and 2011, Port Authority officials say 340 new cars will be rolled out. LaVorgna said the new cars will have three doors on each side, as opposed to the two that cars now have. The doors will also be larger on the new trains. "It is the largest investment in the system since Port Authority acquired the PATH in 1962," La Vorgna said. "We've invested millions. We think riders will be very pleased." PATH carries about 230,000 passengers per day — slightly fewer than its pre-9/11 ridership — between Newark, Hudson County and New York.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1172732835191110.xml&coll=3>

14. *March 01, Newsday (NY)* — **Father pulls toddler from LIRR gap.** The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) said it has been "aggressively" narrowing gaps at its stations to protect riders from falling through dangerous gaps between the platforms and train cars. But that did not prevent another gap incident Wednesday night, February 28. This time a four-year-old boy fell into the gap at the Westbury station. Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police said the boy's father was able to reach down "immediately" and pull the boy from the tracks. The railroad said the boy had "no visible injuries" and was "unhurt." Nevertheless, he was taken by EMS ambulance

to Nassau University Medical Center for examination. No details regarding his condition are available. A recent Newsday investigation found that there had been some 900 gap-related incidents on the railroad since 1995. The series helped focus attention on the issue, and within the last month the Federal Railroad Administration has held hearings to determine if a national policy regarding gap standards is necessary to ensure railroad rider safety. Currently, platform gaps are unregulated, except for requirements forged by the Americans with Disabilities Act, officials said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-ligap0302.0.6533033.story?coll=ny-top-headlines>

15. *March 01, Reuters* — **Indonesia considers 10-year age limit on passenger planes.** Indonesia is considering reducing the age limit on leased commercial passenger planes to 10 years to modernize its fleet and improve safety, the transport minister said. The Southeast Asian country has suffered a string of recent air and maritime accidents, which have been partly blamed on its often shoddy and out of date infrastructure. "Our commercial aircraft are 20 years old. We will modernize, rejuvenate our aircraft by enacting an age limit on aircraft of 10 years old," Transport Minister Hatta Rajasa was quoted by Antara news agency as telling reporters in Cirebon in West Java province on Wednesday. He said that at the time of leasing the plane should be no more than 10 years old, Antara reported. However, Hatta emphasized that the issue was still being discussed and would need to be ratified by ministerial decree. The administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has come under pressure to improve the country's poor transport safety record after a plane accident and two ferry disasters in the space of about two months.

Source: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1172736700.html>

16. *March 01, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS issues proposal for states to enhance driver's licenses.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Thursday, March 1, its proposal to establish minimum standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards in compliance with the REAL ID Act of 2005. The REAL ID requirements are a result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which Congress passed into law, and will enhance the security and integrity of driver's licenses. "Raising the security standards on driver's licenses establishes another layer of protection to prevent terrorists from obtaining and using fake documents to plan or carry out an attack. These standards correct glaring vulnerabilities exploited by some of the 9/11 hijackers who used fraudulently obtained drivers licenses to board the airplanes in their attack against America," said DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff. The department's proposed regulations set standards for states to meet the requirements of the REAL ID Act, including: security features that must be incorporated into each card; verification of information provided by applicants to establish their identity and lawful status in the United States; and physical security standards for locations where licenses and identification cards are issued. As proposed, a REAL ID driver's license will be required in order to access a federal facility, board federally-regulated commercial aircraft, and enter nuclear power plants.

To view the proposed regulations, go to <http://www.dhs.gov/>

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1172765989904.shtm

17. *March 01, Reuters* — **The end of the paper airline ticket.** Paper airline tickets, once the industry standard, are on the fast track to oblivion. If the International Air Transport

Association (IATA) has its way, airlines will issue only electronic tickets by the end of 2007, sending paper tickets the way of other rapidly disappearing industry services such as in-flight meals and free pillows. Travelers who opt for electronic tickets check in for flights using a credit card or government ID. The migration to electronic ticketing, which could save millions of dollars, has been underway for more than 10 years. The IATA, a global trade group, said that 96 percent of tickets issued by U.S. airlines are electronic, while globally 77 percent of tickets are electronic. IATA, which supplies paper tickets to most airlines outside the United States, plans to discontinue that service at the end of this year. Airlines that want to maintain paper ticketing beyond 2007 may continue to do so, but supplies will be costly, said IATA spokesperson Steven Lott. The IATA estimates the potential savings associated with electronic ticketing at \$3 billion a year globally.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-02-28-paper-tickets_x.htm

18. **February 28, USA TODAY — Cities concerned over congestion.** A plan to widen part of Interstate 10 in metropolitan Phoenix from 14 lanes to 24 is the U.S.'s latest giant superhighway proposal designed to ease the kind of gridlock that some planners say could stunt economic growth. For a two-mile stretch between U.S. 60 in Tempe and State Route 143, the interstate would have six-general purpose lanes, two carpool lanes and four lanes for local traffic in each direction. Work on the first phase, which planners expect to cost about \$550 million, could begin by 2011. Political and business leaders in metro areas increasingly view traffic congestion as hurting their ability to compete with other regions for new businesses and young professionals. "There's no question that traffic is a major factor for a business that's contemplating moving to Atlanta," says David Gill, an Atlanta bank president who heads a business group pushing for new ways to finance transportation projects in Georgia. The super-wide highway in Phoenix will cut dangerous weaving at interchanges, reduce freeway congestion and add capacity for a booming population, planners say. The section of I-10 proposed for widening now carries about 294,000 vehicles a day. That will jump to a projected 450,000 by 2025, says Arizona Department of Transportation spokesperson Doug Nintzel.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-02-28-freeway-inside_x.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

19. **March 01, Dow Jones — China reports foot-and-mouth outbreak.** China reported an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Qinghai, the second such case in the northwestern province so far this year. Thirty-nine cows on a farm in Nalong village showed symptoms of the disease February 25, which was confirmed two days later, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=109900>

20. *February 28, Agricultural Research Service* — Cold approach to nematode egg–hatch. The egg–hatch characteristics of soybean cyst nematodes, especially after exposure to cold, might hold clues that could one day help keep them under control, according to Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. Soybean cyst nematodes, *Heterodera glycines*, are microscopic roundworms in the soil that cost U.S. farmers hundreds of millions of dollars in losses each year. ARS scientists discovered that duration of exposure to cold decreases the number of soybean cyst nematode eggs that will later hatch in water. In one study, 70 percent of *H. glycines* eggs readily hatched in 81° F water over 12 days, while others hatched only when exposed to soybean plants. The scientists then stored eggs in water refrigerated to 41° F for varying lengths of time, and found that refrigeration suppressed hatch but didn't kill the eggs. Although refrigerated eggs ultimately hatched when returned to 81° F water, the length of refrigeration time affected the number of eggs that would hatch in water. That rate dropped to 30 percent after two weeks of refrigeration, 20 percent after four weeks, and to less than 10 percent after six weeks.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070228.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

21. *February 28, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — Recall of chicken strips expanded. Carolina Culinary Foods, a West Columbia, SC, firm, is voluntarily expanding its February 18 recall of fully cooked Oscar Mayer/Louis Rich chicken breast cuts and strips that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Wednesday, February 28. The expanded recall totals approximately 2.8 million pounds. The expanded recall is based on additional sampling initiated by Kraft Foods and conducted at a non–government laboratory. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. The chicken breast cuts and strips were distributed to retail establishments nationwide. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_012_2007_expanded/index.asp

22. *February 27, Associated Press* — Officials trace tainted spinach to San Benito County farm. Fresh spinach that sparked a nationwide *E. coli* outbreak last fall was grown on a roughly 50–acre plot in San Benito County, CA, health officials told state lawmakers. Officials said at a legislative hearing Tuesday, February 27, that investigators identified the grower who was farming that plot, which was in the second year of a three–year transition to organic production. However, they declined to release further details until they complete a full report on the outbreak. Investigators previously have said they linked a strain of *E. coli* that killed three people and sickened more than 200 others in September to wild pigs that may have spread the bacteria in the field.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070227-2222-wst-taintedspinach.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

23. *March 01, Arizona Republic* — Colorado River vulnerable despite plans for drought.

Colorado River users will remain vulnerable to water shortages under any of the drought plans under review by the federal government, according to documents released Wednesday, March 1. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has begun evaluating four proposals to better manage drought on the Colorado, including one plan developed by the seven states with shares of the river and another proposed by environmental groups. Shortages are possible as early as 2010, the bureau's environmental-impact statement says. By 2026, the probability that the river won't meet demands increases to 35 percent. The states are Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, California, Utah and New Mexico.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0301_river-drought0301.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

24. *March 01, Agence France-Presse* — Myanmar confirms bird flu outbreak. Military-ruled Myanmar confirmed Thursday, March 1, an outbreak of bird flu in its biggest city Yangon a day after declaring the case to international authorities, but said nothing to its own people. No state media reported on the outbreak of the H5N1 virus in Yangon's western suburbs, where the disease was detected in chickens and ducks on a small farm in a residential neighborhood.

Authorities are also monitoring a possible outbreak in Insein Township, north of Yangon. Myanmar had declared itself bird-flu free in September after months without any new cases of the disease following an outbreak around the central city of Mandalay in March 2006.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070301/hl_afp/healthflumyanmar_070301064640;_ylt=Aqr5sPEwpc5ksrmjrEBK1EOJOrgF

25. *March 01, Associated Press* — China confirms human case of bird flu. China reported a new human case of bird flu on Thursday, March 1. The human infection in China occurred in the coastal province of Fujian, where a 44-year-old farmer was diagnosed on February 18 after he developed a fever and began coughing. It was the mainland's first human case of bird flu since January 10, when the government said a 37-year-old farmer in Anhui province in eastern China had contracted bird flu but had recovered. The report did not say whether the farmer worked with poultry, or whether infected birds were found, but said she had "made contact with dead fowl."

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/03/01/asia/AS-GEN-Asia-Bird-Flu.php>

26. *February 27, UN Integrated Regional Information Networks* — Unidentified illness kills 31 in Côte d'Ivoire. Health authorities in Côte d'Ivoire are investigating an acute illness in a northern village that claimed the lives of 31 people and sickened at least 73 others. People began to fall ill in the village of Diobala in the third week of December with symptoms including headache, high fever, neck and chest pain, and respiratory problems, according to a report by the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. The illness progressed rapidly over the course of three to five days and the first death was reported on December 18. Villagers delayed reporting the illnesses to health authorities until February 5. By then, 31 people had died among the 104 who had fallen ill. Victims in the village of 1,500 included men and women, young and old. Investigators went to Diobala February 13. They discovered that beginning in October animals

in the village had begun falling ill. The report said 90 percent of the village's poultry, as well as about 500 goats and sheep, had died. The last cases of human illness were reported on February 14.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200702270341.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

27. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Columbine evacuated after bomb threat.** Columbine High School, in Littleton, CO, the site of the nation's deadliest school shooting eight years ago, was evacuated Thursday, March 1, after a bomb threat was called in, authorities said. Jefferson County Sheriff's spokesperson Jacki Kelley said students were taken to a nearby park while bomb squads and dogs searched the school. School officials called off classes for the rest of the day. Kelley said she believed more than one threat was called in Thursday beginning at 9:30 a.m. MST. She did not know whether the caller made reference to the April 20, 1999, attack by students Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, who shot and killed 13 people before taking their own lives. Columbine has about 1,850 students, said Marlene Desmond, spokesperson for Jefferson County Schools. The school is in the Denver suburb of Littleton. It was at least the 10th threat of violence against the school or its students since the 1999 killings and at least the second time a threat has prompted the school to send students home.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/COLUMBINE_BOMB_THREAT?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

28. *March 02, Stars and Stripes (Pacific)* — **Responders converge on Kadena to try new emergency guidelines.** At Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, the Air Force on Wednesday, February 28, practiced for the first time new off-base crash-response guidelines, put in place after a Marine helicopter slammed into a local university in 2004. About 380 Okinawan and U.S. emergency responders and officials participated in the scripted exercise — a scenario in which a small plane crashes as it prepares to land, hitting two civilian cars. In applying the guidelines, which specify a joint response, the drill helps to determine “who has responsibility where and how we’ll communicate,” said Col. Max Kirschbaum, commander of the 18th Mission Support Group. “Just by talking through these steps we further improved our relationship and our communication.” The main goal was to demonstrate that the various emergency-response agencies could effectively work together, Kirschbaum said, noting one aspect was figuring out how he and the crisis-management director would share information.

Source: <http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=43965>

29. *March 01, Jakarta Post (Indonesia)* — **Indonesia eying digital early warning system.** Indonesia may decide to utilize Japanese digital broadcasting technology to deliver warnings to wireless devices when natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis hit. The Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting–Terrestrial (ISDB–T) system would send the disaster warnings

through designated organizations, even when the receiving devices were switched off. If an earthquake or tsunami occurred, TV sets and portable TV receivers would be activated automatically and receive emergency news. The digital system allowed high-resolution TV sets to receive sharper images and better sound. Regular TV sets can also receive better resolution through a set-top box.

Source: http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=2007_0301.H08&irec=7

30. *March 01, Lockport Union–Sun & Journal (NY)* — **Dispatch center in New York opens with new technology.** Dispatchers at the Niagara County Sheriff's department in New York now have the latest technology at their fingertips when responding to 911 calls. A multi-million dollar upgrade to the sheriff's dispatch center, now located at the county's Public Safety Training Facility on Niagara Street Extension, is putting state-of-the-art technology to use. Each dispatcher sits at a console with six screens displaying different information. The center screen shows each phone line — six lines dedicated to hard wire phone lines and six for wireless or cellular calls. The screens also show the status of all emergency vehicles that are in service throughout the county, so dispatchers can easily see who's available to respond to calls. In addition, the new system will allow dispatchers to see clusters of calls all coming from the same accident scene, perhaps eliminating the time spent answering several calls about the same thing. Every time a call comes in, a dispatcher is able to immediately pinpoint a caller's location on a map. Soon, each car will be equipped with a device that will enable dispatchers to know their locations at all times.

Source: http://www.lockportjournal.com/local/local_story_060023945.html

31. *February 28, Texas Engineering Extension Service* — **Major earthquake at Disaster City causes exercise response from Texas Task Force 1.** Texas Task Force 1, the state's elite urban search and rescue team, will respond to a mock earthquake catastrophe at Disaster City during a full-scale operational readiness exercise March 2–4. The annual exercise prepares and maintains the unparalleled skills of Texas Task Force 1 by utilizing Disaster City's catastrophically destroyed mock infrastructure. The unique facility creates true-to-life training scenarios that replicate responses to actual disasters. In the mock earthquake aftermath, the team must maneuver through Disaster City rescuing volunteer "victims" in rubble piles, cars, trains and structurally collapsed buildings. Leaking natural gas lines, electric transmission lines and overflowing sewer system scenarios will all be encountered — just like an actual disaster. "While we hope an earthquake happening in Texas is a remote possibility, Texas Task Force 1 could respond to such a natural disaster in our role as a state or national US&R team," said Bob McKee, director of the Task Force and the Texas Engineering Extension Service's (TEEX) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) division. "But the skills and experiences from this exercise will apply to any disaster, whether a terrorist attack or a weather event."

Source: <http://www.teex.com/teex.cfm?pageid=teexresc&area=teex&storyid=596&templateid=23>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *March 01, eWeek* — **Black Hat demonstrations shatter hardware hacking myths.** At the Black Hat Briefings, two breakthrough hardware hacks were demonstrated. One shocker was

Coseinc Senior Security Researcher Joanna Rutkowska's demonstration of a way to subvert system memory through software — in essence, the shattering of the long-held belief that "going to hardware" to secure incident response is a security failsafe. Security professionals at the show called it the "attainment of the holy grail," particularly since the only way to fix the system's memory corruption is to reboot — thus erasing all tracks of the subversion. It's a digital forensic team's worst nightmare. John Heasman from NGSS proved that rootkits can persist on a device — on firmware — rather than on disk, and can thus survive a machine being reimaged. These hacks are esoteric, but they're proving that much of what we thought of as hardware unassailability is pure folklore.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2099603,00.asp>

33. *March 01, IDG News Service* — **Lenovo recalls 205,000 notebook batteries.** Months after joining other PC vendors in a massive recall of faulty notebook batteries, Lenovo Group has found a different problem with some models, and will recall 205,000 notebook batteries worldwide, the company said Thursday, March 1. Lenovo made the move after four customers complained their batteries overheated after they had dropped or hit the notebooks. The defect caused minor eye irritation for one user, and damaged the property and computers of the others, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The recall affects the nine-cell, extended-life version of a battery pack manufactured by Sanyo Electric, of Japan.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/03/01/HNlenovorecallsbat teries_1.html

34. *March 01, IDG News Service* — **Oracle to buy Hyperion for \$3 billion.** Oracle has agreed to acquire business intelligence software vendor Hyperion Solutions for \$3.3 billion in cash, it said Thursday, March 1. Oracle said it will combine Hyperion's software with its own business intelligence and analytics tools to offer customers a broad range of performance management capabilities, including planning, budgeting and operational analytics.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/03/01/HNoraclehyperion_1.html

35. *March 01, Sophos* — **Malware adopts disguises in attempt to dupe IT defenses.** Sophos has revealed the most prevalent malware threats and e-mail hoaxes causing problems for computer users around the world during February 2007. The figures, compiled by Sophos' global network of monitoring stations, show that the HckPk family has had the greatest impact on computer users this month, accounting for more than half of malware seen during February. Hackers are increasingly using encryption and packer tools — such as those belonging to the HckPk family — to camouflage their malicious code. January's hardest-hitting worm, Dorf, plus the prevalent Dref mass-mailing worms are just two examples of the malware currently being hidden within HckPk programs. Sophos has also found that cybercriminals are constantly modifying their HckPk disguises in an attempt to bypass IT defenses.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/03/topt enfeb07.html>

36. *February 28, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — **US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-059A: Sun Solaris Telnet Worm.** A worm is exploiting a vulnerability in the telnet daemon (in.telnetd) on unpatched Sun Solaris systems. The vulnerability allows the worm (or any attacker) to log in via telnet (23/tcp) with elevated privileges. Further details about the vulnerability are available in Vulnerability Note VU#881872:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/881872>

Because VU#881872 is trivial to exploit and sufficient technical detail is publicly available, any

attacker, not just this worm, could exploit vulnerable systems. Sun has published information about the worm in the Security Sun Alert Feed including an inoculation script that disables the telnet daemon and reverses known changes made by the worm:

http://blogs.sun.com/security/entry/solaris_in_telnetd_worm_seen

Solution: To address VU#881872, apply the appropriate patches referenced in Sun Alert

Notification 102802: http://sunsolve.sun.com/search/document.do?assetkey=1-26-102_802-1

To recover compromised systems, Sun has provided an inoculation script that disables the telnet daemon and reverses known changes made by the worm:

<http://blogs.sun.com/security/resource/inoculate.local>

Note that the inoculation script only recovers from this particular worm. Running the inoculation script does not guarantee system integrity. To fully recover, it may be necessary to rebuild a compromised system using trusted software sources. For more information, see

Recovering from an Incident: <http://www.cert.org/nav/recovering.html>

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-059A.html>

- 37. February 28, CNET News — Symantec incorrectly flags Yahoo Mail as a virus.** Yahoo's e-mail service is not infected with a computer virus, despite a warning from Symantec that says it is. Starting sometime on Tuesday, February 27, accessing the beta version of Yahoo Mail on a PC with Symantec's updated antivirus software caused alarm bells to go off. The security software reported finding the "Feebs" worm on the Yahoo Webpages. That warning was in error, Symantec said Wednesday. "Symantec antivirus products...triggered a false-positive alert with Yahoo Mail beta," said Vincent Weafer, a senior director at Symantec Security Response. Source: http://news.com.com/Symantec+incorrectly+flags+Yahoo+Mail+as+a+virus/2100-1002_3-6163068.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

- 38. March 01, Department of Transportation — Daylight Saving Time to begin March 11.** The Department of Transportation issued a reminder on Thursday, March 1, that daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11, three weeks earlier than in recent years. Prior to this year, daylight saving time has been observed from the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. As a result of legislation enacted by Congress in 2005, beginning this

year daylight saving time will begin the second Sunday of March and end the first Sunday of November. As a result, this year daylight saving time will run from March 11 to November 4. Federal law does not require any area to observe daylight saving time. But if a state chooses to observe daylight saving time, it must follow the starting and ending dates set by the law. In those parts of the country that do not observe daylight time, no resetting of clocks is required. Those states and territories include Arizona, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas. In the Uniform Time Act of 1966, Congress established uniform dates for daylight saving time and transferred responsibility for the time laws to the Department of Transportation.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot2407.htm>

- 39. *March 01, Associated Press* — Blizzards, wet snow hit Midwest, Plains.** Heavy, wet snow and blizzard conditions hit the Plains and Midwest on Thursday, March 1, shutting down hundreds of miles of interstate highways. Schools closed in several states, and hundreds of flights were canceled. Two people were killed when their car overturned on a slick road in North Dakota, and snowplows were pulled off the roads in the western Minnesota because of strong wind and heavy snow. The storm moved into Iowa with rain and sleet but changed to snow around dawn. A blizzard also hit eastern Nebraska, with a foot of snow in the Omaha area and up to 15 inches of snow expected in some areas before it dies off Friday. Interstate 80 was closed for nearly 200 miles from York, NE, to Des Moines; I-35 was shut down for 115 miles from Ames, IA, to Albert Lea, MN; and I-90 was closed from Albert Lea to the South Dakota line, about 150 miles to the west. In suburban Milwaukee, part of a supermarket roof collapsed after a morning snowfall. Joe Foltz, who works at the Pick n' Save supermarket, said he heard a crackling shortly before the collapse.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WINTER_STORM?SITE=WUS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

[[Return to top](#)]

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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